

# BOOK REVIEWS

**TREATMENT IN PROCTOLOGY.** By Robert Turell, B.S., M.D., Attending Proctologist, Hillside Hospital, New York, and a chapter on Psychosomatic Problems by Louis Linn, M.D., The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, 1949. \$7.00.

The apparent purpose of this book is to display the author's instruments for use in proctologic procedures. Ten such instruments are prominently shown in 18 pictures. These are poor justification for publication of a book. The author contributes next to nothing to the text from personal experience, except perhaps his own enthusiasm for tattooing in the treatment of pruritus ani. Any value which the bibliography might have is lost because of the lack of specific reference in the text to the authors listed.

The subject matter is poorly balanced. The operative treatment of cancer of the colon and rectum is covered in two and one-half pages; the chapter on diverticulosis and diverticulitis contains less than three pages of text. Yet 25 pages are devoted to a rather loose discussion of pruritus ani and 20 pages to a chapter made up of a multiplicity of diet lists.

The chapter on Proctology in Geriatrics says, in two pages, that aging individuals are subject to the "usual" anorectal-colonic diseases and that they should be treated.

An innovation in a textbook of proctology is a chapter entitled Psychosomatic Problems in Proctology, written by Louis Linn, M.D. Psychologic concepts which "may enrich our understanding of symptoms" are smoothly expounded. The reviewer is violently unsympathetic to the four examples given of application of these psychologic concepts:

1. Pruritus ani: "... frequently ... a repressed impulse to masturbate."
2. Fissure-in-ano: "A minor crack ... enlarged and perpetuated by anxiety-determined hypertonus of the anal sphincter."
3. Constipation: "... related to feeling of inferiority, depression, or sexual impotence."
4. Colitis: "Diarrhea ... an autonomic expression of anxiety ... Psychologic factors ... mobilized from early childhood experiences in which the bowel movement and the soiling ... are expressions of hostility toward the parents."

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**MANUAL OF MEDICAL EMERGENCIES.** By Stuart C. Cullen, M.D., Professor of Surgery, Chairman, Division of Anesthesiology; and E. G. Gross, M.D., Professor and Head of Department of Pharmacology; State University of Iowa College of Medicine. The Year Book Publishers, Inc., Chicago, Ill. 1949. \$3.75.

The authors have emphasized in the preface that the manual is designed to cover only the acute emergencies and in the 254 pages of text have managed to discuss, sometimes in detail, but usually concisely and pertinently, the usual emergency situation that confronts the general practitioner as well as many of the specialists. The chapters on Airway and Artificial Respiration and on Oxygen Therapy are particularly appropriate and serve to clarify problems that are oftentimes taken for granted, or left to an assistant, in emergency therapy. The chapters on Circulatory Emergencies, Acute Poisoning, and Allergic Disturbances utilize the most recent pharmacological advances where appropriate. It is the opinion of the reviewer that the manual serves the purpose for which it was intended. It is the suggestion of the reviewer that the purchaser familiarize himself with the manual when in a contemplative mood rather than await the moment of emergency.

**FOOD AND FACTS FOR THE DIABETIC.** By Joseph H. Barach, M.D., Associate Professor Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Pittsburgh, Oxford University Press, New York, 1949. \$4.00.

This book, written for the diabetic patient, makes a more direct approach and a more complete presentation than any other book of this type with which this reviewer is familiar. It states clearly and interestingly the known facts about the disease diabetes, its clinical manifestations, the methods of diagnosis and the method and planning of treatment. The sources of food, its component parts and its handling in body metabolism are set forth in a clear fashion. The caloric values of food, the use of insulin and the laboratory tests for determining the adequacy of diabetic control are also clearly set forth.

The complications of diabetes are explained, the methods of their prevention highlighted, and their care, once they occur, detailed.

The management of diabetes in children receives special consideration.

Of particular value are diets accurately worked out not only for men but for women and for children. These are in greater detail than in any other texts known to the reviewer, and should be very helpful to the individual patient even after his training by a dietitian.

The reward for meticulous care in this disease is plainly set forth. Various tables deal with longevity, and 20 other purposeful and helpful tables are interwoven throughout the book.

The patient who familiarizes himself with the contents of this book and who follows its teaching will do especially well.

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**MUSCLES—TESTING AND FUNCTION.** By Henry O. Kendall and Florence P. Kendall, Physical Therapy Department, Children's Hospital School, Baltimore, Maryland. The Williams and Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1949. \$7.50.

The authors have done an outstanding job in preparing and presenting the material on muscle testing contained in this book.

The chapter on the fundamental principles involved in manual muscle testing is complete, precise and understandable and includes a definition of terms, an explanation of muscle grading, a discussion as to what to expect of muscle function at different age levels and a suggested order for muscle testing.

A chapter is devoted to illustrations of muscle, nerve, and body mechanics and examination charts. Also included are illustrations demonstrating the course of spinal nerves, the location of motor points and the dermatomes and the cutaneous field of peripheral nerves.

A large section of the book is made up of a description of the technique of muscle testing. The test maneuver for each muscle is illustrated by a photograph which shows the muscle and/or tendon in action. These photographs are a highlight of the book and are a work of art.

The chapter which contains the illustrations of the facial muscles in action is particularly outstanding.

The appendix is devoted to a description of the origin, insertion and action of muscles.

The material presented in this book should be particularly valuable to the orthopedist, physiatrist and physical therapy technician and to all of those interested in the study of muscle function.